

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, DA, US

SUBJECT: DANISH PRIME MINISTER STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE

EUROPEAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: IN A SPEECH TO THE AMERICAN CLUB OF COPENHAGEN
ON JANUARY 20 PRIME MINISTER POUL HARTLING GAVE A STRONG REAFFIRMA-
TION ON HIS BELIEF IN THE NECESSITY OF CLOSE TRNAS-ATLANTIC TIES.
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HE NOTED THAT WHILE "WE ALL HAVE OUR SHARE OF THE BLAME", EUROPEAN

NATIONS HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY PRONE TO DISREGARD THE PROBLEMS OF THE "GREAT PROTECTOR". HE SAID THAT THE POLICY OF DETENTE "CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE NAME OF DR. KISSINGER" CORRESPONDS TO IDEAS AND CONVICTIONS HELD IN DENMARK AND HE POINTED TO THE FACT THAT INFLATION COULD HAVE AN UNDERMINING EFFECT ON THE WESTERN SECURITY SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH HARTLING, WHO SPOKE IN ENGLISH, SAID THAT HE WOULD TALK ABOUT DANISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS, THE PRINCIPAL PART OF HIS SPEECH--AND HIS EMPHASIS--WAS ON EUROPEAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. ONLY TOWARD THE END DID HE NOTE THAT THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS "GOOD". HE SAID THAT THE EUROPEANS HAVE TENDED TO TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO SUPERFICIAL THINGS AND FORGOTTEN ESSENTIALS, BUT THIS TRAIT IS FOUND ALSO IN AMERICA, "OBVIOUSLY, WE ALL HAVE OUR SHARE OF THE BLAME, ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC." "IF THERE IS A GROWING AMERICAN IMPATIENCE WITH EUROPEAN BICKERING AND ILLUSIONARY POLITICS I CANNOT SAY THAT I CANNOT UNDERSTAND IT. BUT I MUST ADD THE HOPE THAT AMERICAN IMPATIENCE WITH EUROPEAN ATTITUDES WILL NOT BLUR AMERICAN VISION: THE NATIONS AROUND THE ATLANTIC DO NEED EACH OTHER AS MUCH TODAY AS EVER--AND I WANT TO UNDERLINE 'WE NEED EACH OTHER'...IF THE NATIONS WHICH TOGETHER COMPRIZE WESTERN CIVILIZATION CANNOT FIND EACH OTHER IN CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION, AND CANNOT REVITALIZE INSTITUTIONS AND FRAMEWORKS OF COOPERATION I DO NOT SEE MUCH HOPE, NEITHER FOR US, NOR INDEED FOR THE WORLD."

2. HARTLING SAID THAT WORLDWIDE INFLATION WAS VERY HIGH UP ON THE LIST OF PROBLEMS. "IT THREATENS THE WHOLE FABRIC OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION; IT COULD ALSO HAVE VERY UNDESIRABLE REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE WORLD...THE PRINCIPAL GUARANTEE FOR PEACE IN THE LAST QUARTER CENTURY". QUITE LIKELY, HE ADDED, WE ARE ON THE WAY TO A SITUATION WHERE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE MATERIAL SENSE WILL PROVE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN FOR THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD. CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CAN BE MET--IF AT ALL--ONLY IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AND THE INDUSTRIALIZED WESTERN NATIONS SHOULD BE THE FIRST TO SEE THIS AND ACT ACCORDINGLY. "THE TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK EMANATE FROM THE WEST; SO DOES THE IDEA OF A FREE SOCIETY AND THE FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL--CONCEPTS WHICH ARE EXTREMELY UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY EXISTENCE IF WE CANNOT FIND A NEW STABILITY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL

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ECONOMY AND FOR THE INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIES.".

3. THIS BROUGHT THE PRIME MINISTER BACK TO THE QUESTION OF EUROPEAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS; HE ASKED WHY THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS IN COOPERATION. HIS ANSWER: "PARTLY, OF COURSE, A QUESTION OF DIFFERENT IDEAS ABOUT TACTICS. PARTLY A QUESTION OF HURT PRIDES AND ILLUSIONS ABOUT PAST POSITIONS--AND I MAY ADD, ON THE EUROPEAN SIDE, PERHAPS, A LACK OF APPRECIATION OF THE

IMMINENCE OF THE REAL PROBLEMS AND THE GENUINENESS OF AMERICAN IDEAS ABOUT WHAT SHOULD BE DONE. ON THE AMERICAN SIDE, PERHAPS, A LACK OF APPRECIATION ON THE TRUE DEPTH OF THE DIVERSITY WITHIN A UNITY WHICH IS WESTERN EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION; AND OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH

THE PAST PLAYS IN THE ATTITUDES OF GREAT EUROPEAN NATIONS, WHO USED TO WIELD A MUCH GREATER INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY IN THE WORLD'S COUNCILS THAN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ALLOW. BUT I REMAIN A STRONG BELIEVER IN THE STRENGTH OF ATLANTIC LOYALTIES, BECAUSE THEY ARE FOUNDED IN FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS AND BASIC ATTITUDES. WE BELIEVE IN AN OPEN SOCIETY, AND THERE IS NO SOCIETY MORE OPEN AND FREE THAN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA".

4. ON DETENTE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: "WE FOLLOW THE ENDEAVORS OF THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION TO SEEK MORE CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS IN THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, WITH DEEP SYMPATHY. THE POLICY OF DETENTE AS CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE NAME OF DR. KISSINGER CORRESPONDS CLOSELY WITH IDEAS AND CONVICTION HELD IN DENMARK." HE ALSO SAID THE DANES HIGHLY APPRECIATED AMERICAN ENDEAVORS TO COPE WITH PROBLEMS FACING THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD, AND THIS IS WHY THE DANES HAVE TRIED TO MEET AMERICAN INITIATIVES IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT: HARTLING'S SPEECH WAS THE STRONGEST AND FRIENDLIEST STATEMENT BY A DANISH LEADER IN MANY YEARS ON THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WITH THE US. IT CORRESPONDS CLOSELY WITH WHAT WE KNOW OF HIS PERSONAL PREDILECTION, AS REFLECTED BOTH WHEN HE WAS FOREIGN MINISTER AND NOW AS PRIME MINISTER. MISSING WERE THE CARPING AND CRITICISM ABOUT OUR POLICY WHICH FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN STANDARD FARE IN ANY DANISH PUBLIC STATEMENT ON RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEART-WARMING THAT HARTLING CHOSE TO MAKE THIS PUBLIC STATEMENT AT A TIME WHEN HE IS IN THE MIDST OF DELICATE AND CRUCIAL NEGOTIATIONS TRYING TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR A VIABLE GOVERNMENT. ANY MISSTEP OR MISSTATEMENT COULD BE FATAL BUT HE TALKED FREELY ON A SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE. HE LEFT THE LUNCHEON TO MEET ALONE WITH HIS SOCIAL DEMOCRAT OPPONENT ANKER JORGENSEN IN WHAT MAY BE A DECISIVE LAST ATTEMPT TO ASSURE THE NEEDED SUPPORT FOR HIS GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT MEETS ON THURSDAY.

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